

Isle of Wight Catchment Sensitive Farming Project

Newsletter – Autumn 2013

The Isle of Wight Catchment Sensitive Farming (IWCSF) Project is co-ordinated by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. This project aims to provide well informed advice and guidance to farmers and landowners on all aspects of catchment sensitive farming. The project officer may also provide assistance with applications for grant funding to protect water resources, address diffuse and point source pollution and enhance wetland habitats.

Annual Review

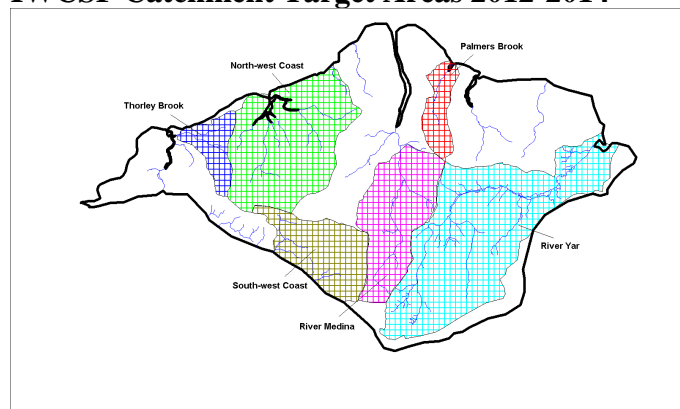
Since the Spring Newsletter was issued the IWCSF Officer has carried out a further 36 visits to farms covering over 700ha within the Catchment Target Areas to discuss a wide variety of issues. These discussions have included low input grasslands, fen restoration, reed bed management and continuing in-field grass /arable reversion that started under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme where land is farmed on steep slopes and in close proximity to a watercourse.



The free visits include discussions with the farmer to assess the impact of the business on the environment and look at practical solutions to achieve the mutual goals.

A large part of the project is to encourage farmers to enter part or all of their land into agri-environment schemes where funds for buffer strips, tree planting and low input / extensive grazing can be accommodated. This leads to a reduction in impacts and in many cases, financial incentives to maximise returns in a hard – pushed economy. With agri-environment schemes drawing to a close the IWCSF Officer will continue to provide advice and support through the Capital Grant Scheme and sourcing specialist advisors where necessary to assist with projects that will improve water quality.

IWCSF Catchment Target Areas 2012-2014



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Capital Grant Scheme 2014/2015

The CSF Capital Grant Scheme will open for applications between **1st March – 30th April 2014**. This is a nationally competitive scheme to encourage farmers and land managers to improve or install facilities that will benefit water quality by reducing losses of pesticides, nitrates and sediments from land and yards.

*****A maximum of £10,000 may be awarded to any farm to cover 50% of the costs (labour/machinery/materials)*****

Grants for items such as:

- Hard bases for livestock drinkers and feeders
- Cross drains
- Sediment ponds and traps
- Yard works for clean and dirty water separation
- Rainwater storage tanks
- Relocation of sheep dips
- Livestock and machinery tracks and associated livestock fencing
- Lined biobeds
- Roofing of manure storage and livestock gathering areas
- Roofs for slurry and silage stores

Priority is given to:

- Projects within the catchment target areas (see map overleaf)
- Applicants who have received 1:1 on farm advice from the IWCSF Project Officer
- Those with holdings in Environmental Stewardship/ Countryside Stewardship Agreements



To request an application pack and handbook please contact:

**CSF Grants Team, Nottingham
TEL: 0300 060 1111**

Further details may be found at

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/csf/cgs

To request advice and 1:1 farm visits please contact :

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